THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Procurement of defence items is made on technical and commercial considerations as per the procurement procedure of the Ministry of Defence.

Families affected by Pakistan's shelling on the border

2847. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of families affected adversely and injured on account of Pakistan's shelling on the border/LoC, the State-wise and year-wise details during the last three years;

(b) the details of houses damaged and instances of loss of life and property on account of deployment of the army on the border during the same period State-wise; and

(c) the amount of compensation given to families therefor and measures adopted for their rehabilitation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) As per information available, the approximate number of families affected in the States along the Line of Control & International Border on account of shelling by Pakistan, during the last three years, are as follows:–

Jammu & Kashmir (Jammu region)	—	32182
Punjab	—	265
Gujarat	—	Nil
Rajasthan	—	Nil

(b) No houses were damaged or lives lost because of the deployment of the army, but a few persons, cattle & livestock were killed due to land mine blasts.

(c) Total amount paid/being paid to the State Governments for compensation for occupation of land and building by the Army during the period of mobilization comes to approximately Rs. 300 crore.

In Punjab the displaced families have returned to their native villages on easing of tension. In Jammu & Kashmir the State Government has provided a relief package to the displaced families, some of whom have

also been accommodated in Government buildings & tented accommodation, and are being provided all civic amenities.

Delay in approval of applications for opening of Liaison Offices of arms supplies

2848. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many applications referred to Defence Ministry by Reserve Bank of India for giving permission to open Liaison Offices for arms supplies are pending with the Ministry for a long time;

(b) if so, what is the reason for the delay in disposal of applications;

(c) how many such cases are pending; and

(d) what is the time frame by which they will be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) do not refer applications for opening liaison offices to the Ministry of Defence. RBI make references for this purpose to the Ministry of Finance. It is the Ministry of Finance that obtain views/comments of the Ministry of Defence and conveys to RBI. In the Ministry of Defence only one such reference is pending. The views of the Ministry of Defence in respect of this reference will be forwarded to the Ministry of Finance shortly.

Increase of personnel in Army, Navy and Air Force

2849. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the officer and personnel strength of the Armed Forces and proposed appointment over 400 new Generals; and

(b) if so, the details of the existing and the proposed increase in strength of officers and men in each wing, Army, Air force and Navy indicating the reasons for such increase?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.